

AMENDMENT(S) TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

The present application is a 35 U.S.C. §§ 371 national phase conversion of PCT/JP2004/006333 filed 30 April 2004, which claims priority of Japanese Application No. 2003-130814, filed 8 May 2003. The PCT International Application was published in the Japanese language.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 36, line 11, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In Fig. 6(d), the coma generated within the optical system varies from negative to positive, to negative, and back to positive again in moving from negative to positive along the X axis, and the RMS wave-front aberration is 0.04λ . In order to correct this coma, the aberration correction optical element 4a₄ shown in ~~Fig. 6(e)~~ Fig. 2(e) is used. The coma generated by the aberration correction optical element 4a₄ varies from positive to negative, to positive, and back to negative again in moving from negative to positive along the X axis. The height 2h in Fig. 2(e) is designed so that when the aberration correction optical element 4a₄ is used to correct the coma shown in Fig. 6(d), the residual RMS wave-front aberration is minimized. Fig. 6(h) shows this residual wave-front aberration, namely, the sum of the solid line and the broken line shown in Fig. 6(d), and it is evident that the absolute value of the residual wave-front aberration is approaching 0λ .